



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Mr. Joseph Ditty
Pretreatment Coordinator
Municipal Sanitary Authority for the City of New Kensington
120 Logans Ferry Road
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068-2046

Re: Pretreatment 2008 Annual Report
NPDES No. PA0027111

Dear Mr. Ditty:

Thank you for your timely submission of the City of New Kensington's annual pretreatment report for calendar year 2008. I apologize for the delay in review of the report as we are adjusting to changing responsibilities here at EPA and I was out of the office on extended maternity leave.

In reviewing the annual reports, EPA has continued the program in which specific pretreatment implementation items for each approved program are being tracked. For calendar year 2008, no significant changes have been made to the measures. However, for measure 2 (effluent data), we are no longer including an evaluation of non-priority pollutant parameters such as BOD, TSS, ammonia, and phosphorus if NPDES limits exist. For these pollutants, the effluent evaluation will be done as part of the NPDES non-toxics violations evaluation under measure 6 in order to correctly count exceedances for average and maximum limits. A few other clarifications have been made to other measures as shown on the measures instruction sheet, although these clarifications generally do not impact the way the measures are evaluated. Enclosed is a sheet that includes the data that I have collected for the New Kensington pretreatment program for calendar year 2008, as well as a sheet that provides some additional information on the categories listed. An AInstruction Sheet@ that provides more detail on each measure (with the revisions in bold) is also enclosed. Generally, the category ratings are not directly related to compliance, but ACategory 1@ would be considered the best rating for each measure. Finally, a summary of all of the POTW data collected so far for calendar year 2007 has been included to allow you to compare your program to the ratings achieved by POTWs in calendar year 2007.

The following are explanations for those Measures for which a Category 2 or 3 rating was assigned for the 2008 report:

Measure No. 1 - Influent Results – Category 2 is assigned since one of the quarterly sampling results submitted for nickel exceeded the influent goal of 0.0794 mg/l.

Measure No. 3 - Sludge Results – Category 2 is assigned for nickel and zinc because sample results associated with both pollutants exceeded their respective sludge goals. For nickel, three of four monitoring results exceeded the goal of 420mg/kg. For zinc, one result exceeded the goal of 2800 mg/kg. The Authority should investigate the source of these metals since sludge exceedances are considered to be more significant because they reflect a potential discharge to the environment.

Measure No. 4 - Data/local limits Evaluation – Category 3 is assigned for nickel and zinc as a result of the sludge exceedances listed above. The source of the exceedances was not discussed in the annual report and must be investigated and addressed. If the exceedances were previously investigated, the report should discuss the appropriate findings and any actions that were taken to control them.

Measure No. 6 - Compliance with other NPDES limits – Category 3 is assigned for CBOD and TSS. Although the Annual Report states that no permit violations attributable to industrial users occurred in 2008, there is no definitive cause listed and therefore the Category 3 rating applies. The Authority should investigate the source of the violations even though it may not be a pretreatment issue, as all NPDES permit violations must be addressed.

Measure No. 8 - SIU SNC Rate – For 2008, a Category 2 rating is assigned since one of the six SIUs (16.7%) was in SNC for the calendar year.

Measure No. 9 - Repeat SNC Rate – For 2008, a Category 3 rating is assigned since one of the six SIUs (16.7%) was in SNC for 2008 and was also in SNC the previous calendar year. If violations persist at this facility, the Authority will have to escalate the level of enforcement to ensure that the user returns to and maintains compliance.

Measure No. 19 - Overall Program rating – The overall rating for 2008 was 83.3%. This rating is designated as Category 2.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 215-814-5783.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ottinger
NPDES Permits and Enforcement (3WP41)
Water Protection Division

Enclosures

cc: Sam Harper, PADEP Southwest Region (w/out enclosures)
Linda French, Hatch Mott MacDonald (w/ enclosures)